

The “NET” BUSINESS WATCH

ROBBERY!

Since January 1, 2002 there have been seventeen commercial robberies in Lincoln, nine occurred in May. The businesses targeted have been banks, hotel/motels, convenience and liquor stores, a pharmacy, and a fast food restaurant. In all but three cases, a gun was displayed.

What is a ROBBERY? The dictionary definition of a robbery is the taking of money or personal property of any value by the use of force and violence or by putting a person in fear.

PREVENTATIVE ACTIONS:

1. Train all employees on what to do in case of a robbery.
2. Make sure the camera and alarm systems are working properly and are always on.
3. Install height markers on exit door frames.
4. Keep windows free from obstruction.
5. Ensure that all rear and side doors are locked.
6. If possible, don't keep large amounts of cash at your business.
7. Keep a key in any room you could get locked into.
8. Be alert and aware of people on the business property.
9. Record the serial numbers of several bills to have as "bait" money in the cash register.
10. Have adequate lighting at the front and rear entrances.
11. Call police on any suspicious activity or people.

DURING THE ROBBERY:

1. Do not do anything to jeopardize personal safety. Comply with the demands of the robber.
2. Consider all firearms real and loaded.
3. Keep any note the robber may hand you.
4. Activate the alarm if it doesn't put you at risk.
5. Be observant and make note of every detail possible of the robber including weapons and any vehicles.
6. Once the robber has left, immediately call 911, giving a description of the robber and the last direction of travel.
7. Lock the business and don't touch anything the robber may have touched.
8. Detain any witnesses until the police arrive.
9. Do not discuss what happened with other employees or customers until the police have interviewed you.
10. Do not chase the robber.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: What to look for :

*Race *Age *Height *Weight *Scars *Tattoos

*Hairstyle - color and length

*Facial characteristics - beard, mustache, glasses, etc.

*Clothing - hat, shirt, coat, pants, shoes, gloves, etc.

*Type of Gun - revolved, semi automatic, shotgun, etc.

*Car - make, model, color, approx. year, license plate information.

If you have any questions or would like a robbery presentation for your employees
Contact:

Officer Nancy Willemssen

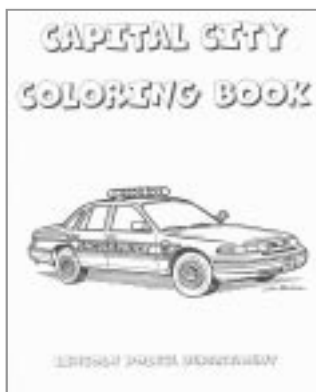
Business Watch Coordinator

441-8294/441-7261



Donation Maintains LPD's Outreach To Lincoln's Children

A generous donation from the State Farm Insurance Companies has allowed officers of the Lincoln Police Department to continue distributing coloring books to area children. These coloring books are unique to Lincoln because local artists were invited to submit drawings for the project. Artists included in the book are: Neal R. Anderson; Jim Brown; Paul Fell; Scott Stewart; Danny Curtis; Mary Jane Martig; Penny Siefker; Mark Marcuson; Cindi Zuby; and Connie Leavitt. All of the pictures relate to law enforcement or safety issues for children.



The cost of printing these coloring books could not be included in the police department's budget. Without the donation from State Farm the project would have been discontinued. Thank you very much State Farm for helping the Lincoln Police Department to continue distributing these coloring books to our children.

Summertime Concerns of Business Owners:

Summer has arrived, the weather is warm and, especially for Lincoln youth, there are fewer scheduled activities. During this time more people will be out and active until later at night. Late night activities may include young people finding places to socialize. Some of the places they find may include privately owned business lots. This could be a cause of concern to many business owners. While most youth act responsibly there are others who do not care how they treat your property. Problems may include: liability concerns, littering, vandalism, theft, or burglary. If there are nearby residences, any disturbance created by a group on the lot could have a negative effect on the business.

A proactive approach to prevent these kinds of problems is best. Consider any kind of design or environmental barrier that would dissuade people from congregating on your property especially during the hours the business is closed. Make sure that the exterior of your business, the driveway, and the parking area are well lit at night. Post signs that are visible upon approach or entrance to your property, stating your intent that trespassing and loitering will not be tolerated.

To facilitate the police department's response to trespassing or disturbances on your property, please write a letter to the captain of your team area (SE, SW, NE, NW, or Center). State in your letter that it is your intent to have any violators cited or arrested for any criminal activity on your property. Include your business name, address and phone number, the name and phone number of an after hours contact person, and where your "No Trespassing" signs are posted. If your business is posted and LPD has your letter of intent on file, officers can more easily make on-view responses to problems without having to wait for a complaint to be called in.

VACATION TIME = TRAVELER CHECKS

These summer months mark the height of the vacation season. With more people traveling, businesses are more likely to see traveler checks being spent in place of cash. Coinciding with increased usage there will be more frauds, including counterfeits, involving traveler checks.

When accepting traveler checks take the time to get proper identification from the person who is passing the check. Watch while that same person countersigns the check in your presence. Also take the time to inspect the check itself to prevent taking a counterfeit. Just as the government has taken steps to prevent counterfeiting of currency, the traveler check companies have built features into their bills to discourage copying. Counterfeit traveler checks often appear flimsy, have a glossy appearance, and tear easily. Things to look for on traveler checks include:

- Watermarks— All traveler checks contain watermarks that can be seen when they are held up to a light.
- Intaglio Engraved Printing— Engraved elements on traveler checks have a raised texture that you can feel with your fingertips.
- Paper quality— Traveler checks are made with paper not commercially available. The paper is 100% cellulose and feels like crisp new paper money.
- Serial numbers— Traveler checks will have a serial number at the top and the bottom. The two numbers should coincide.
- Background— Traveler checks will have a background writing that shows the same amount as the denomination.

Issuing companies toll free numbers:

American Express....1-800-525-7641 Citicorp....1-800-645-6556

MasterCard....1-800-223-9920 Novus....1-800-347-1111 Visa International....1-800-227-6811

CRIMINAL CENTRAL

The Lincoln Police Department is looking for several individuals that have three or more outstanding warrants. Some of these criminals have been "ducking" the law for up to two years. We need your help in bringing all these individuals in to face up to their responsibilities. If you see any of these individuals or have tips on where Law Enforcement might locate them, please call **Crime Stoppers** at **475-3600**.



Anthony J. Labrillo W/M
DOB: 10-28-1976
5ft 11in, 190lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
Steal Money or Goods
Hinder/Delay Arrest
Assault
Theft by Deception



Kerisse D. Stubblefield B/F
DOB: 10-15-1979
5ft 7in, 150lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
3 separate warrants for Suspended Driving
Vandalism
Narcotics/Intent To Deliver
Last Address:
706 S. 46 St.



Mark Sharom Moshiri W/M
DOB: 02-25-1977
5ft 10in, 150lbs
Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown
WARRANTS: LPD/LSO
Disturbing the Peace
DWI
Negligent Driving
Suspended Driving (x2)



INDIVIDUAL(S)
LOCATED AND TAKEN
TO JAIL OR THE
WARRANTS WERE
TAKEN CARE OF.



PERSONAL SAFETY TO AND FROM WORK

Warrants current as of
6-17-2002.

- **Safety in your car...**

- *Look for a well lit parking place and lock your vehicle. Preplan if you know you will be returning after dark.
- *Before getting into your car, check the back seat and floor for someone hiding.
- *When approaching your car, look for anything that appears suspicious or out of place.
- *If someone is loitering nearby, or your vehicle appears to have been broken into, return to the building and call the police.
- *As you approach your car have your key in hand.
- *Do not leave anything of value in plain sight in your vehicle (purse, cell phone CD case). Place items in the trunk.
- *Keep your doors locked when you're in your vehicle.
- *If being followed, don't drive directly home. Drive to a place where other people are present. Such as a hospital emergency entrance or a 24 hour business.

- **Safety on the bus or taxi....**

- *Sit behind or across from the bus driver.
- *Have the taxi driver wait until you get into your residence or business.

- **Walking alone....**

- *Be aware of your surrounding at all times.
- *At night, try to stay on well-lighted streets, avoid area you are not familiar with.
- *Tuck your purse close to the body; do not let it dangle.
- *Wallets should be carried in an inside or front pocket. Do not reveal your cash.



THE "NET" BUSINESS

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME PREVENTION GROUP
575 S. 10TH St.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508**

***Return Service
Requested***

Checks/Fraud Corner

By Technical Investigations Unit

In the year 2001, the Lincoln Police Department's Checks and Fraud Unit had a 5% increase in the amount of fraud cases investigated. Forgery cases were up, and 52% were cleared with an arrest. Fraudulent check cases were up 50%.

What can businesses do to protect themselves and their customers? Here are the big three tips to prevent the crime from occurring:

- (1) **Photo I.D. - Compare name on I.D. to the name on the check and ensure they match.**
- (2) **Write the I.D. number down on the check.**
- (3) **Ask for an inkless print.**

In most cases, a forgery or fraud can be avoided when all the simple steps are taken. Employees should also be leery of an individual that presents a check that is already signed and has an I.D. number written on it but is unable to produce an I.D. when requested. Many times a criminal will state the check is from their mother/father or girl/boyfriend. If the employee requests to see some I.D. and the person states it is in their car and they need to go get it, this might be a good indicator of a possible deception. Be aware of the individual that refuses to give an inkless finger print. Employees should be alert to a person that comes into the store numerous times in one day, buying small dollar items or numerous cartoons of cigarettes and writing checks for over the amount to obtain cash. Watch the person more

closely if they don't make eye contact and is acting very nervous.

Sometimes after a fraud/forgery has been committed, the investigation halts abruptly due to insufficient information. The following steps are needed from businesses when they request a forgery investigation:

- (1) Obtain the original forged check. Handle it as little as possible by placing it in a plastic sleeve or other document protector. LPD will be able to compare writing and get fingerprints.
- (2) Get the name, date of birth, address and phone number of the employee that accepted the forged check. (This information is helpful and cuts down on time spent looking for this information.)
- (3) Ask the employee if they remember the transaction and if they can provide a suspect description.
- (4) Obtain and secure the video of the transaction (if available).
- (5) Record the date and time when the check was forged and passed.
- (6) Obtain the name of the contact person at the business who made the report.
- (7) Submit a detailed list of items purchased, i.e., serial/model numbers.

Businesses are in the front lines when battling the criminals who commit forgery and fraud. If there are any questions, please contact the Technical Investigations Unit, Checks and Fraud Division at 441-7390.